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character in each species of tree. They are not merely abnormal developments of the bark, but are composed of true woody fibre disposed in annual rings and surrounded by bark, as though they were so many separate centers of growth. Mr. Meehan suggests the following explanation of these excrescences. By experiment it is shown that there is no difference in the first place in any part of the cambium layer or layer of growth, although subsequently the inner part produces wood cells. "The same cell may become permanent tissue or generating tissue, and from the generative tissue may come before the season of growth closes every form of structure known to anatomists, from pure wood to the outermost cuticle of the bark. We know that cell-growth is not always uniform in its operations. The law that changes the outermost series of newly cells into liber need not necessarily operate so exactly as to make them perfect to this end—a few may be thrown off into the liber as generative tissue—and, granting this possibility, we see how the woody granules in the apple bark are formed." In this same way, Mr. Meehan infers, the larger excrescences with rings of growth are formed. In this case "the imperfectly formed liber cells, still retaining their generative power, make a growth the next season, forming a layer of wood and making its own cortical layer, simultaneous with the normal wood growth of the tree, assimilating from the same store of reserve material that the normal growth does."—J. M. C.

WOLFFIA.—*Wolffia* in Gray's Manual, page 480 (Ed. of 1869), is described as having "*fronds rootless*, proliferous from a cleft or funnel-shaped opening at the base, the offspring soon detached." Last summer I watched *Wolffia* pretty closely and with much interest. In plants from my locality the manner of its reproduction seems to be this. I noticed plants that were nearly spheres, others that were oblong, or prolate spheroids, and of these some had indentations about the middle, which varied in depth, until in some of the plants the two portions were merely in contact and these soon went apart, making two perfect plants.—DR. H. C. BEARDSLEE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Prof. Theo. B. Comstock, of Cornell University, proposes to conduct an "Aquatic Summer School of Natural History." A steamer is to be chartered for four or six weeks to cruise along the "south and west shores of Lakes Erie, Huron and Superior, thence along the north and east shores of the same waters." The route is certainly a tempting one to botanists and the fee, $125 including everything for 30 days, is so moderate that we have no doubt many will be temqted to make application to join the expedition.

We take pleasure in calling attention to a circular issued by H. Eggert of St. Louis, Mo. It surely presents a rare chance to botanists to obtain sets of the fine and many rare plants found in the neighborhood of St. Louis. We have received a set of Mr. Eggerts' plants and have found them to be exceedingly fine specimens and can cordially recommend them to our friends. Mr. Eggert offers for sale or exchange a selection from a list of about 500 species collected in the vicinity of St. Louis. He allows those who wish to buy, the privilege of chosing from the list such plants as they desire to obtain, at the rate of 6 cents per species for full and complete specimens. Dr. George Engelmann is given as reference. The list may be procured by addressing H. Eggert, 918 Wash St., St. Louis, Mo.

In a note from Prof. M. W. Harrington, written from Leipzig, Germany, the following is of general interest. "The great German botanist, Prof. Hofmeister, died a few days ago. The two parts of his *Handbuch der Physiologischen Botanik*, promised for 1876, were not prepared and the book must therefore remain unfinished. To those who have possessed the earlier parts—some already 10 years old—this must be a source of great regret.

ALBINISM IN PLANTS.—In the Oct. No. of the BULLETIN I see a notice of a white *Lobelia syphilitica*, L. In confirmation of this fact, I will state that I have found two similar specimens, one in 1873 and another this fall. The one found this season was almost pure white, and was found in a large group of its kindred, which were all of their natural color. My specimens were both in full bloom when found.

I have also found, every spring for the last seven years, some specimens of white, or whitish plants of *Eupatorium serotinum*, Michx., but these have invariably resumed their natural green color by flowering time. This peculiarity was not confined to specimens that grew in deep shades, but was observed as well in examples that grew exposed to bright sunlight.—J. SCHNECK.

CAMPTOSORUS RHIZOPHYLLUS.—In a note from Miss H. J. Biddlecome, of Springfield Ohio, the following is of general interest—"In No. 6, Vol. I, a writer, referring to variations of the basal lobes of *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, mentions having a specimen in which one of the lobes is prolonged out from the rhachis from an inch to an inch and a half. I have three times found specimens having the lobe extended on one side five inches, in two of them the apex had taken root, but had not yet given rise to a plant."—J. M. C.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS—*Amedrican Journal of Science and Arts*, February. Dr. Gray gives a very interesting review of Charles Darwin's new book on "The Effects of Cross-and Self-Fertilization in the Vegetable Kingdom," The book is principally devoted to the details of experiments going to prove that cross-fertilization is beneficial to the plant. Dr. Gray says that the book is not light reading, but if it is as interesting as his view, it is well worth a careful persual.

The Gardener's Monthly, February. Mr. Meehan thinks that the extreme views of so many botanists in respect to the necessity of cross-fertilization are weakening. According to Dr. Gray, nature's golden rule for flowers is, "Get fertilized, cross-fertilized if you can, close-fertilized if you must." W. M. Canby gives a short, but interesting note upon the singular anology in *Darlingtonia* and *Sarracenia*.

Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, January. The second article on "Libraries and Herbaria" gives an account of the New York State Herbarium located at Albany. "It is intended to represent and illustrate the Flora of the State and comprises about 1600 species of Phænogans and 2500 of Cryptogams.

Report of the Botanist, made to the Regents of the University of the State of New York. This report, from the twenty-seventh annual Report on the New York State Museum of Natural History, was received after the twenty-eighth, which was noted in the last number of the GAZETTE. Mr. Peck seems to be diligently engaged, not only in describing new fungi, but in mounting and arranging botanical specimens of all kinds. The report contains descriptions of 39 species of fungi new to science. It is also valuable to all who are desirous of working up the fungi of their region, for it contains full direction for their collection and preservation.

A Grand International Exposition of Horticulture and the Products of the Vegetable Kingdom is to be held in Amsterdam from April 13 to May 2, and in connection with it a congress of Horticulturists and Botanists, by whom many important questions will be discussed on the theory of Botany, the Practice of Horticulture, and the cultivation of the most important vegetable products, such as cotton, tobacco, quinine, indigo, etc. The prizes will consist of medals of gold, silver, and bronze and certificates, to be awarded by a jury of Dutch and foreign scientific gentlemen. We do not know whether any preparations have been made in this country for contributing to the Exhibition, but it is to be feared that the notices have been sent too late to enable advantage to be taken of them here.—W.

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